

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0020] This configuration can change the direction of a force which will act on the weld part of the filter element and the inner wall surface of the container when the fluid flows in the filter element. To be concrete, the shearing force that tends to peel off the weld part can be reduced and converted to a tensile force ~~and a shearing force~~ (refer to Fig. 10). Consequently, it is possible to prevent the weld part from coming off from the container and thus improve the life of product.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0048] The above ribs 32 and 33 can serve to change the direction of a force which will act on a weld part 36 of the filter element 22 and the inner wall surface of the filter case 21 when fuel flows into the fuel filter 6. To be more concrete, the shearing force tending to peel off the weld part 36 can be reduced and converted to a tensile force ~~and a shearing force~~ (see Fig. 10). Accordingly, it is possible to prevent the weld part 36 from coming off from the filter case 21, resulting in the improved product life.

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0066] In the fuel filter 6, the protrusive ribs 32 are provided on the inner wall surface of the inner circumferential side of the filter case 21 and the protrusive ribs 33 are provided on the inner wall surface of the outer circumferential side. When the fuel flows in the fuel filter 6, the force acting on the weld part 36 of the filter element 22 and the inner wall surface of the filter case 21 can be converted from the shearing force tending to peel off the weld part 36 to the tensile force ~~and the shearing force~~. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent the weld part 36 from dropping off from the filter case 21. The product life can therefore be improved.